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Commissioner for Patents, PO BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 at  
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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: ATSER-005

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Bao Tran

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

BIRKNER et al.

Application No.: 09/887,907

Filed: 6/22/2001

Examiner: Sterrett, J.  
Art Unit: 3623

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO BOX 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend the claims as follows: